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MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION AND ENSURE THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. By its resolution 1996/18 of 11 April 1996, the Commission on Human Rights called upon all Member States to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expressed the hope that it would enter into force at an early date; requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the active promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; invited organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the Convention and on the efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention and the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

3. In this connection, it may be recalled that a meeting of high-level governmental experts from the African region was convened by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 May 1996, with assistance from the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity. The purpose of the meeting was to open a dialogue with States of that region not having adhered to international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in order to identify obstacles to ratification and to seek ways of overcoming them. Governmental experts from 17 States attended the meeting. A second meeting of high-level governmental experts, for the Asian and Pacific region, will be held in 1997 with the assistance of the Government of Jordan.

4. As at 1 November 1996, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had been ratified by Morocco and the Philippines, acceded to by Egypt, Colombia, Kuwait, Seychelles and Sierra Leone and signed by Chile and Mexico. In accordance with its article 87, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.